



Connecting Schools for Emergency Preparedness



Missouri Provides Free Preparedness Solution for All Schools

All emergencies are local.

Federal agencies emphasize this to state emergency planners. States in turn pass this maxim on to counties and cities. While this philosophy is accurate, sometimes local emergency planning and preparedness stops before it reaches the school directly impacted by the emergency.

"Emergency response is a product of preparedness. On the morning of September 11, 2001, the last best hope for the community of people working in or visiting the World Trade Center rested not with national policymakers, but with private firms and local public servants, especially the first responders: fire, police, emergency medical service and building safety professionals."

(The 9/11 Commission Report, page 278)

The State of Missouri has recognized this gap in preparedness and offers the Emergency Response Information Plan™ (ERIP) all-hazards preparedness system as a solution for public & private schools.

Background



In 2006, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) partnered with the Missouri School Boards' Association to provide a limited version of ERIP that allowed schools to create public health related plans online. The response to this innovative approach was tremendous; with over 1,500 schools registering for the program and DHSS receiving national recognition. Utilizing federal Homeland Security dollars, the Missouri Office of Homeland Security has expanded this program to provide an all-hazards solution for all K-12 schools (public and private), child care centers and higher education facilities.

Registration and Usage is Completely Free!

This solution is provided by the Missouri Office of Homeland Security completely free of charge to all Missouri educational facilities (K-12, Child Care and Higher Education). K-12 Districts (or private school equivalents) can register at the Department of Health & Senior Service Public Health Planning Site: <https://dhss.safepplans.net> (click on the "Sign Up Here" link). This registration allows for access to the existing Public Health Planning Site and will automatically transfer to the new all-hazards version. The K-12 all-hazards solution will be fully operational well before the 2007-2008 school year. Registration for child care and higher education facilities will commence in July 2007.





Emergency Response Information Plan™ (ERIP)

The methodology and content of ERIP was driven by direct input from educational leaders, healthcare professionals and public safety experts. The overarching goal of ERIP is to help schools and first responders mitigate emergencies whenever possible and achieve the fastest possible proper response when emergencies cannot be prevented. This improved response time is vital because in an emergency, seconds save lives. Improvements to the facility response are achieved by the development of all-hazards plans and the implementation of training programs for facility staff. Public safety professionals know how to respond to an emergency; what they lack is tactical information about the facility to which they are responding. This need is accomplished by providing access to mission-critical facility data, such as floor plans and images, via ERIP's Critical Information Portal.

Planning

ERIP's intuitive planning process allows emergency planners to create better plans in less time. This is accomplished by integrating site-specific information into established "best practice" emergency plan templates. Once developed online, plans can be generated into Adobe PDF format so they may be printed and/or saved on local hard drives. Plan updates are tracked and revisions to the "best practice" template are easily disseminated to all users.



Training

Training personnel on roles and responsibilities is one of the most overlooked areas in site level emergency planning. The ERIP Academy provides on-demand, detailed training to all personnel. E-learning courses are provided to educate school staff in areas such as emergency management, lockdown procedures and preventing targeted school violence.

Response

Providing first responders access to critical site information, such as floor plans, is facilitated through ERIP's Critical Information Portal. Facility planners are able to upload facility schematics, photographs and rosters into the secure portal. First Responders are provided special "read-only" access to the data through the new Missouri Emergency Resource and Information System (MERIS).



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The ERIP Preparedness system was unanimously endorsed by the Missouri Safe Schools Working Group and Governor Matt Blunt's Homeland Security Advisory Committee. The Safe School Working Group members include:

Missouri Office of Homeland Security
Department of Health & Senior Services
Department of Mental Health
State Fire Marshal's Office
Missouri Center for Safe Schools
National Education Association
Missouri Federation of Teachers

Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
Department of Public Safety
State Emergency Management Agency
Missouri School Boards' Association
Missouri Assoc. of School Administrators
Missouri School Nurses' Association
Missouri School Resource Officers' Association



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